

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An endoscopic instrument comprising:

a first instrument part adapted for introduction into a cavity of a human body and having an introduction channel therein for passage of gas therethrough;

an insufflation device;

a second instrument part having a connection channel therein adapted to be connected to said first instrument part introduction channel, said second instrument part adapted for connection to a gas source being connected, via a tube, to said insufflation device to provide gas, at a flow rate suitable for insufflation of a human body cavity, from said ~~gas source~~ insufflation device through said tube and said connection channel to said introduction channel for introduction into the human body; and

a heating device for heating the gas in said introduction channel to substantially the temperature of the human body, wherein said heating device is provided in at least one of said first instrument part and said second instrument part.

2. (withdrawn) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 1, wherein said heating device is formed integrally with said second instrument part.

3. (withdrawn) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a housing having said heating device therein, said housing having a gas inlet and a gas outlet, said gas outlet adapted for connection to said connection channel.

4. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 1, wherein said heating device comprises an electrical heating coil.

5. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 4, wherein said heating coil is flat.

6. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 1, wherein said heating device is provided in said second instrument part.

7. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a housing connected to said endoscopic instrument and having said heating device therein.

8. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a temperature sensor for supplying a signal indicative of the gas temperature.

9. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 8, wherein said temperature sensor is positioned adjacent said connection channel to provide the signal to a regulator for said heating device.

10. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 8, wherein said temperature sensor is positioned adjacent the distal end of said introduction channel to provide the signal to a safety shut-off for said heating device.

11. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 1, further comprising two temperature sensors, each temperature sensor supplying a signal indicative of the gas temperature; and means for comparing the signals from the two temperature sensors to provide a signal to a regulator for said heating device.

12. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 1, wherein said endoscopic instrument comprises a trocar for performing an endoscopic procedure to the human body.

13. (withdrawn) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 1, wherein said endoscopic instrument comprises a laparoscope for performing an endoscopic procedure to the human body.

14. (currently amended) An endoscopic instrument comprising:

a first instrument part adapted for introduction into a cavity of a human body and having an introduction channel therein for passage of gas therethrough;

an insufflation device;

a second instrument part comprising a housing having a gas inlet and a gas outlet and having a connection channel therein between the gas inlet and the gas outlet, the gas outlet adapted to be connected to said first instrument part introduction channel, and the gas inlet adapted to be connected to ~~a gas source~~ said insufflation device via a tube, to provide gas, at a flow rate suitable for insufflation of a human body cavity, from said gas source through said connection channel to said introduction channel for introduction into the human body; and

a heating device formed integrally within the housing of said second instrument part, said heating device for heating the gas in said introduction channel to substantially the temperature of the human body.

15. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 14, wherein said heating device comprises an electrical heating coil.

16. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 15, wherein said heating coil is flat.

17. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 14, wherein said heating device is provided in said second instrument part.

18. (withdrawn) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a housing connected to said endoscopic instrument and having said heating device therein.

19. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 14, further comprising a temperature sensor for supplying a signal indicative of the gas temperature.

20. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 19, wherein said temperature sensor is positioned adjacent said connection channel to provide the signal to a regulator for said heating device.

21. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 19, wherein said temperature sensor is positioned adjacent the distal end of said introduction channel to provide the signal to a safety shut-off for said heating device.

22. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 14, further comprising two temperature sensors, each temperature sensor supplying a signal indicative of the gas temperature; and means for comparing the signals from the two temperature sensors to provide a signal to a regulator for said heating device.

23. (original) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 14, wherein said endoscopic instrument comprises a trocar for performing an endoscopic procedure to the human body.

24. (withdrawn) The endoscopic instrument as claimed in claim 14, wherein said endoscopic instrument comprises a laparoscope for performing an endoscopic procedure to the human body.